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Letter dated 30 December 2011 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) I have the honour to refer to paragraph 5 (b) of Council resolution 1977 (2011) and to transmit herewith the report of the Committee on recommendations for the structure, methods, modalities, expertise and representation of the Committee and the Group of Experts (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council and have them circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Baso **Sangqu**
Chair
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

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Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) on recommendations for the structure, methods, modalities, expertise and representation of the Committee and Group of Experts

I. Introduction

1. On 20 April 2011, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1977 (2011), by which the Council extended the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for 10 years, until 25 April 2021.

2. By paragraph 5 (a) of the resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish, in consultations with the Committee, a group of up to eight experts (hereafter, the "group of experts"), acting under the direction and purview of the Committee, composed of individuals with the appropriate experience and knowledge to provide the Committee with expertise and to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate under resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011), including through facilitation of assistance to improve implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

3. By paragraph 5 (b) of resolution 1977 (2011), the Council requested the Committee to consider recommendations for the Committee and the group of experts on expertise requirements, broad geographic representation, working methods, modalities and structure, including consideration of the feasibility of a coordination and leadership position of the group of experts. The present report contains those recommendations for the Committee.

4. The recommendations are based on the Committee's documented consultations with and written input from the group of experts, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Political Affairs.

5. The Committee's recommendations serve to support its effectiveness, optimize its relationships with the Secretariat, make it more responsive to the long-term mandate established by the Security Council in resolution 1977 (2011) and focus on the implementation of paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolution 1540 (2004), including through visits to States at their invitation; on mechanisms to draw upon relevant expertise, including of civil society and the private sector with, as appropriate, their State's consent; on facilitating technical assistance at the invitation of the State concerned; and on enhanced cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, and management by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of resources that States may provide according to paragraph 22 (c) of resolution 1977 (2011).

II. Structure

6. Recalling the above-mentioned paragraph 5 (a) of resolution 1977 (2011), the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General, in consultation with and with the prior consent of the Committee, appoint a Coordinator of the group of experts, who would coordinate the activities of the other members of the group.

7. In order to help ensure better support by the group of experts to the work of the Committee, the Coordinator should facilitate the routine internal workings of the group of experts by promoting cooperation, accountability and improving communication.

8. Acting under the direction of the Committee, the Coordinator should also synchronize the work of the group of experts in support of the Working Groups of the Committee; coordinate with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs and other United Nations entities and departments; and coordinate with other entities as directed by the Committee to carry out its mandate.

9. The Committee recommends that the Coordinator should be appointed for a 2-year term of service according to the policies of the Secretariat. A primary objective for the Coordinator would be to facilitate continuity during periods of change in the Committee's membership.

10. Special attention should be paid to maintaining continuity and preventing the sudden loss of experience when appointing the experts.

11. An additional primary objective for the Coordinator would be to contribute to a seamless relationship between the group of experts, the Chair of the Committee, the four Working Groups, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs and Department of Political Affairs, through frequent coordination and consultations. Such a measure would help to harmonize the group of experts' priority setting, workload management and coordination of deadlines for tasks arising from Committee decisions, instructions from the Chair and the coordinators of the Working Groups. The Coordinator would also work to facilitate the delivery by the experts of a coherent message on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) during outreach events.

III. Working methods and modalities

12. By paragraph 9 of resolution 1977 (2011), the Council decided that the Committee should continue to intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004), through its programme of work, which includes the compilation and general examination of information on the status of implementation by States of resolution 1540 (2004) as well as efforts by States in terms of outreach, dialogue, assistance and cooperation. The programme of work of the Committee addresses in particular all aspects of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of resolution 1540 (2004), encompassing (a) accountability; (b) physical protection; (c) border controls and law enforcement efforts; and (d) national export and trans-shipment controls, including controls on providing funds and services such as financing to such exports and trans-shipments. The programme of work also includes, as necessary, specific priorities for the work of the Committee, taking into account its annual review on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), prepared with the assistance of the group of experts before the end of each December.

13. The Coordinator should prioritize and delegate the work of the group of experts, drawing upon the specific expertise in the group and in line with the Committee's objectives, including the assignment, editing and review of papers, presentations and remarks. The Coordinator should direct such non-substantive tasks

to enhance the group's efficiency and effectiveness. On substantive issues, the Coordinator should facilitate efficient consensus-building.

14. The Coordinator should consider selecting one or two experts from the group of experts to provide dedicated support to each Working Group and to act as designated points-of-contact on relevant issues. Such work assignments could be made based on the specific knowledge and competencies of each expert with which to meet specific requirements, and need not be permanent.

15. The Committee should, when applicable, maximize "in kind" contributions or cost-free training and expertise, in particular to help the group of experts to meet requests for assistance, according to paragraph 22 (c) of resolution 1977 (2011). The Committee should also, when applicable, consider the use of additional personnel, in strict accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations rules and regulations, who could provide their specialized knowledge in specific areas related to the Committee's mandate.

16. The Committee should, in close cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and other United Nations bodies, develop ways to utilize and maintain expertise, in particular that of former group experts, who could be made available to carry out specific missions or provide assistance regarding the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), according to paragraph 22 (d) of resolution 1977 (2011).

17. Special attention should be paid to recording and maintaining the institutional knowledge of current and former experts, Committee members and other relevant officials. The Coordinator would, in that regard, provide as much continuity as possible in the face of regular changes of Committee members and evolving efforts to implement resolution 1540 (2004), and thereby secure the continuity of expertise, knowledge and managerial requirements.

IV. Expertise requirements

18. The Committee should maintain flexibility in obtaining and maintaining the required expertise, knowledge and skills that are available within the group of experts in order to best implement resolution 1540 (2004). A wide range of expertise, knowledge and skills should be required to meet the needs of the Committee in response to adjustments of its work priorities and mandate and to changes in its specific tasks resulting from its annual programmes of work. Such expertise, knowledge and skills should include, but not be limited to, (a) technical knowledge and expertise related to paragraph 3 of resolution 1540 (2004); (b) managerial skills required to establish and participate in assistance, implementation and outreach programmes, activities and projects; (c) diplomatic skills; (d) communication skills; (e) public relations expertise; and (f) such skills as the Committee determines necessary to assist it in carrying out its mandate under resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011).

19. The Committee should consider establishing and maintaining a list of individuals with relevant expertise, nominated by Member States, whose services might be available to support the Committee in implementing its mandate.

V. Broad geographic representation

20. A broad geographic representation contributes to the effectiveness of the work of the Committee. The Committee therefore recommends that the group of experts continue to be selected with due regard for broad geographic representation in accordance with its previous decisions, relevant General Assembly resolutions, and Secretariat hiring guidelines, rules and regulations. The Committee notes that regional expertise and background continue to be useful in the expertise mix to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

21. Requests for the nomination of experts should be sent to all Member States, whose nominations should be given equal consideration and judged primarily on the competence of the nominee while keeping in mind relevant General Assembly resolutions and Secretariat guidelines, rules and regulations. The attention of Member States should also be drawn to the requirement to maintain gender balance when nominating experts.